

STATE OF IOWA

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION JUDY A. JEFFREY, DIRECTOR

NEWS RELEASE For Immediate Release February 4, 2009 For More Information: Elaine Watkins-Miller, 515-281-5651 elaine.watkins-miller@iowa.gov

Number of AP Exams Taken in Iowa at an All Time High

Advanced Placement one option for high school students to access college credit

DES MOINES, **Iowa –** More Iowa high school students took Advanced Placement (AP) exams than ever before according to a report released today by the College Board, which administers the AP program.

For the 2007-2008 school year, 7,798 high school students took a total of 11,786 exams, which is the highest number of exams and students taking exams ever reported in Iowa. This includes all students who took exams regardless of their graduating class. Both the number of students and exams have more than doubled since 1998. The average score on last year's tests was 3.10, which is higher than the national average of 2.85.

The graduating Class of 2008 did well on the test and had more class members take the exam than previous classes. Of the more than 34,000 members of the 2008 class, 4,484 members or 13.2 percent took at least one AP exam during their four years in high school. This is higher than five years ago, when only 8.6 percent of the 2003 graduating class took at least one AP exam. Approximately 66 percent of the Class of 2008 that took an AP exam during their high school career scored a 3 or higher. This is higher than the national average, which is 60.9 percent.

Many colleges and universities award college credit or advanced placement into higher-level college courses to students with high AP exam scores. A score of 3 or above is considered to be college-level performance. AP exams are scored on a 1-5 scale, with 5 being the highest possible score.

Advanced Placement is one option for lowa students to potentially earn college credit while still in high school. To help more high school students access college credit — regardless of where they live, their career path, or family income — the lowa legislature passed the Senior Year Plus program in 2008. The program helps provide access to college credit through Advanced Placement courses, Concurrent enrollment (previously and commonly called dual-credit) courses, Post-secondary Enrollment Options Act courses, Career Academy courses and lowa Communication Network (ICN) and lowa Learning Online courses. Many of these programs have existed in lowa for some time, but Senior Year Plus offers improvements and helps make options easier to understand for parents and students.

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The lowa Department of Education works with the State of Iowa Board of Education to provide oversight, supervision and support for the state education system, which includes public elementary and secondary schools, nonpublic schools that receive state accreditation, area education agencies, community colleges and teacher preparation programs. The department is committed to high levels of learning, achievement and performance for all students, so they will become successful members of their community and the workforce.